Reviewer’s report

Title: Barriers to and strategies for addressing the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health workforce: Addressing the post-2015 agenda

Version: 0 Date: 27 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Peter Hill

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. While the essential messages have been identified in other literature, this paper is important because of the voice it gives to those actually instrumental in dealing with the issues of SRMNAH, and the international spread of input. I have two suggestions that may enhance the publication:

1. The distribution of countries which held a workshop is broad, but clearly dominated Africa—not unreasonably given the MDG outcomes and the residual agenda that needs to be continued, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. However, while it in no way invalidates the study, this should be mentioned briefly in the limitations.

2. The title alludes to the post 2015 Agenda, though there is no linkage in the findings or discussion to the multi-dimensional elements of the SDGs that will have a direct impact on SRMNAH—gender equity, education, enhanced communication, employment etc—with the exception of a reference to UHC. Given the timing of the workshops, the definitive SDGs had not been determined, but some reference in the discussion to the SDGs would locate the findings more clearly in the 'post-2015 agenda'.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal